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## COLUMNISTS

### *Opening Lanes*

Gary Lane



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*Opening Lanes* is based in large part on readers' questions. Do you have a question about a particular opening line? Baffled by a branch of the Benoni or Budapest? Submit your questions (with you full name and country of residence please) and perhaps Gary will reply in his next **Chess Cafe** column...

[Yes, I have a question for Gary!](#)

## The World Cup

In June the football/soccer world cup takes place and a television audience of over a billion will watch it. But what happens to followers of countries who do not qualify? Well, the answer is that they more time to study chess so I have selected questions from people living in Finland, Algeria, and New Zealand. I have made an honourable exception for chess players from the United States of America because their team will probably be knocked out after the first round stage!

“My name is **Santul Kosmo** and I am writing from **Finland**. I have noticed that a leading Finnish IM has been fond of the seemingly incorrect gambit 1e4 Nc6 2Nf3 f5 lately and scores reasonably well with it. For example here is what happened to a strong Finnish national master (ELO rating somewhere around 2300) this year in Helsinki Chess Circuit. Keskinen-Salmensuu (IM) went as follows: 1 e4 Nc6 2 Nf3 f5 3 exf5 d5 4 Nh4 e5 5 Qh5+ g6 6 fxg6 Nf6 7 g7+ Nxh5 8 gxh8Q Qxh4 9 Qxh7 Nd4 10 Nc3 Bf5 11 Qxc7 Bg7 12 Bb5+ Kf8 13 Qc5+ Kg8 14 Qxd5+



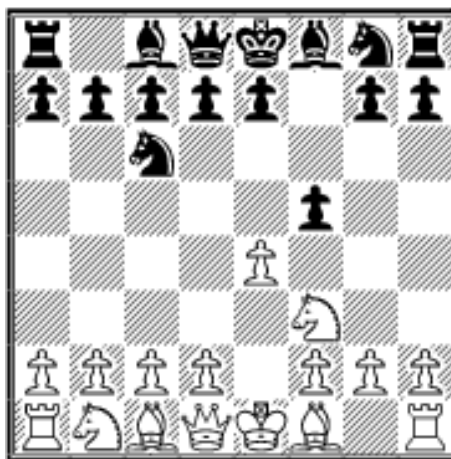
Kh8 15 g3 Qe7 16 0-0 e4 17 d3 Rd8 18 Qc4 Nf3+ 19 Kh1 Rd4  
20 Qb3 exd3 21 Bxd3 Rh4 22 Kg2 Bg4 23 Rh1 Nd4 24 f3 Bxf3+  
25 Kf2 Bxh1 26 Qc4 Rxh2+ 27 Kf1 Nxf3+ 0-1

Quite crushing, wasn't it? Still the idea doesn't really seem to be sound and I wondered if you could give me some suggestions of how to beat such an offbeat line. My rating is a bit under 2100 and I regularly compete in weekend tournaments. Finnish top players constantly play in weekend tournaments too so it would be nice not to have to start thinking on move 3 with white.

It is never easy to cope with unusual openings especially when a stronger player uses them. In this case you walked into a trap with 4 Nh4 because there is no way you could cope with the immense complications without prior knowledge. If you fancy having another go in that line I recommend that you learn every move of the following game:

**Arkadij Naiditsch-Fabian Doettling Dortmund 2000**

**1 e4 Nc6 2 Nf3 f5?!**

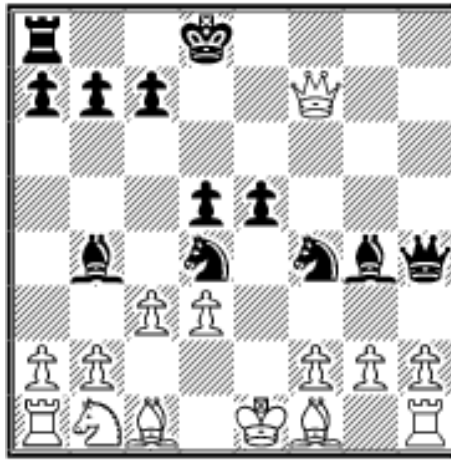


It might seem a bit mean to brand the move as being dubious but practice has shown that other moves give Black much better chances such as 2...e5 transposing to main lines. **3 exf5 d5 4**

**Nh4!? e5 5 Qh5+ g6 6 fxg6 Nf6! 7 g7+** White accepts the challenge and wins a whole rook. In the game, T.Therkildsen-C. Philippe, Le Touquet, White opted out with the timid 7 Qg5

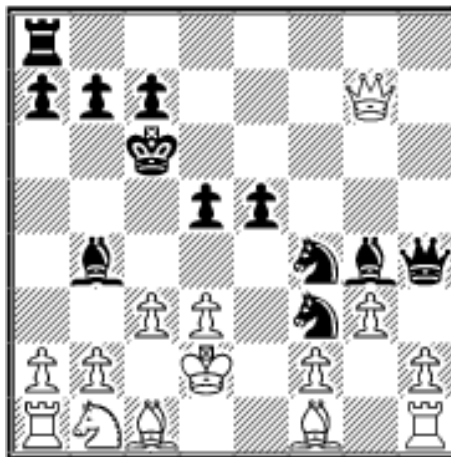
and never really got into the game. There followed 7...Bc5 (with the threat 8...Bxf2+ followed by ...Ne4+) 8 d3 Nd4 9 Kd1 Qd6 (if I have to make a quick assessment then the verdict is that the position is a complete mess! White might have a couple of extra pawns but Black has a big lead in development) 10 c3 Nc6 11 Be2 Qe6 12 g7 Rg8 13 Qh6 Be7 14 Bg5 Bd7 15 Bh5+ Kd8 16 h3 Nxb5 17 Bxe7+ Kxe7 18 Qxb5 Rxb7 19 g4?! (19 Nd2 is necessary to help get the pieces activated) 19...Qf6 20 Nd2 Rf8 21 Rf1? (White misses his queen is in danger otherwise he would consider 21 Nhf3) 21...Rg5 22 Qxb7+ Rf7 23 Ng6+ Rxb7 24 Qh4 Rh6 0-1.

**7...Nxb5 8 g7 8 Q Qxb4 9 Qxb7 Nd4 10 Qg6+ Kd8 11 d3** It is easy for White to go wrong with 11 g3, which helps to exchange queens but does nothing to stop the tactics. Sorsa-Kiik, Pori 1997, continued: 11...Qg4 12 Qxg4 Bxg4 13 Bg2 (13 Bd3 to defend the c2 pawn is shown to be futile after 13...e4! 14 c3 Nf3+ 15 Kf1 Bh3+ 16 Ke2 Bg2 with a winning advantage) 13...Nxc2+ 14 Kf1 Nxa1 15 Bxd5 c6 16 Bg2 Bf5 17 Nc3 Bd3+ 18 Kg1 Nc2 when White can start packing the pieces away. **11...Nf4!** Another piece joins in the hunt for the white king. Instead 11...Nxc2+? allows White to give back some of his extra material in order to survive. For example: 12 Kd1 Qxf2 (12...Nxa1?? 13 Bg5+ wins the queen) 13 Be2 Nf4 (or 13...Nxa1 14 Bg5+ Be7 15 Rf1 winning) 14 Bxf4 exf4 15 Qg5+ Be7 16 Qxd5+ and Black will now wonder why he played 2...f5. **12 Qf7 Bb4+ 13 c3 Bg4!**



A remarkable position has arisen with Black lining his pieces up on the fourth rank ready to invade. However, he is still a rook down. **14 Qg8+** The point of the bishop on g4 is revealed after 14

**Bxf4? Nc2+ 15 Kd2 Qxf2+ 16 Be2 (16 Kc1? Qe1+ 17 Kxc2 Qd1 mate) 16...Qxe2+ 17 Kc1 exf4 18 cxb4 Qxg2 19 Qf8+ Kd7 20 Qf7+ with perpetual check. 14...Kd7 15 Qg7+ Kc6 16 g3** Or 16 Na3 Bxa3 17 cxd4 Bb4+ 18 Bd2 Bxd2+ 19 Kxd2 Qxf2+ 20 Kc1 exd4 intending ...Re8 when Black is the favourite) **16...Nf3+ 17 Kd1 Nd4+ 18 Kd2** The only way that White can avoid the draw is 18 f3 but the downside is that it loses. For instance: 18...Bxf3+ 19 Kd2 Qh5 20 gxf4 Bxh1 21 cxb4 Qxh2+ winning. **18...Nf3+**



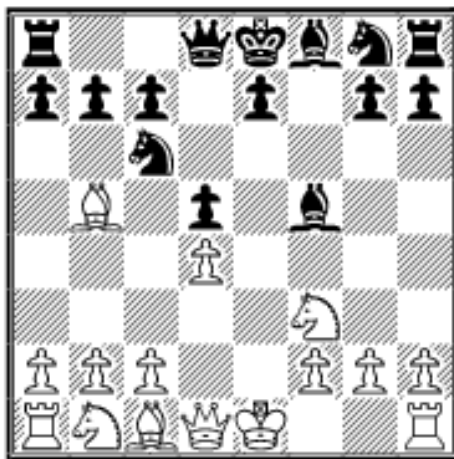
**19 Kd1** An amusing mate occurs after 19 **Kc2 Ne1+ 20 Kb3?? Bd1+ 21 Kxb4 Nfxd3++ 22 Ka3 Qa4 mate. 19...Nd4+ 1/2-1/2.**

I personally think you should probably avoid such amazing tactics and play something that relies less on spending hours on home preparation. I think the key to this line is to try

and exploit Black's backward e-pawn. This game will probably encourage you in the right direction:

### ***John Shaw-Olli Salmensuu European Team Championship Leon 2001***

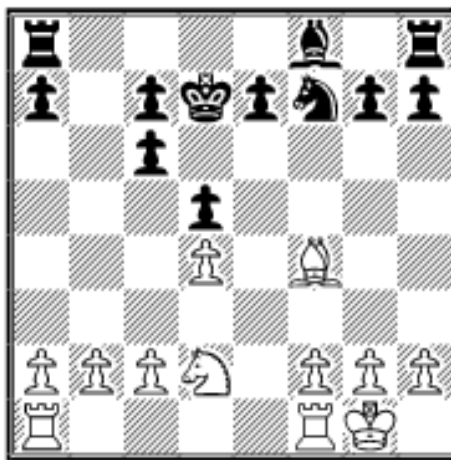
**1 e4 Nc6 2 Nf3 f5 3 exf5 d5 4 d4** Or 4 b3 which is an unusual reply hoping to confuse Black by just trying to develop his pieces and use the queen's bishop on the a1-h8 diagonal to prevent ...e7-e5. For example: 4...Bxf5 5 Bb2 a6 6 Nh4 Be6 7 Bd3 (7 Qh5+ achieves nothing after 7...Bf7) 7...Bf7 8 Nf3 Qd6 9 0-0 Bh5 (not 9...e5? due to 10 Nxe5 Nxe5 11 Bxe5 Qxe5 12 Re1 winning) 10 Be2 Bxf3 11 Bxf3 0-0-0 12 d4 e5 with roughly equal chances although Black won after 30 moves in Dutreeuw-Salmensuu, Panormo 2001. **4...Bxf5 5 Bb5**



This is a good way of coping with the opening by pinning the knight in order to keep control of the e5 square. Another idea is 5 Bd3, which occurred a few rounds earlier in the same tournament in

the game E.Dervishi-Salmensuu, Leon 2001. That went: 5...Bg4 6 h3 Bxf3 7 Qxf3 Nf6 (if 7...Nxd4? then 8 Qh5+ g6 9 Qe5 attacks the knight and rook allowing White to stroll to victory.) 8 c3 e5 (Black has managed to rid himself of the backward e-pawn but White's pair of bishop will be useful) 9 dxe5 Nxe5 10 Qe2 Qe7 11 Bc2 0-0-0 12 0-0 Re8 13 Bf4 Nc4 14

Qxe7 Bxe7 15 b3 Bd6 16 Bg5 Nb6 17 Nd2 Nh5  
 18 Rae1 Bf4 (18...Nf4!? is probably better) 19  
 Nf3 g6 20 g3 Bxg5 21 Nxg5 with an edge for  
 White. **5...Qd6 6 Ne5 Nf6 7 0-0 Nd7 8 Bxc6  
 bxc6 9 Qf3! Nxe5** After 9...e6 then 10 g4  
 plunges Black into a minor crisis because the  
 bishop will be exchanged leaving him with weak  
 doubled g-pawn. For instance: 10...Bg6 11  
 Nxg6 hxg6 12 Bf4 Qb4 13 Qd3 0-0-0  
 (13...Qxb2 does nothing to improve the position  
 after 14 Nc3 Kf7 15 Rab1 Qa3 16 Bxc7) 14 Nd2  
 Bd6 15 c3 Qb8 16 Bxd6 cxd6 17 Qg3 Nf6  
 (17...e5!? should be considered) 18 b4 g5 19  
 Kg2 Qb7 20 Rfe1 Rhe8 21 a4 Qb8 22 b5 c5 23  
 Nb3 Ne4 24 Qe3 Rf8? 25 f3 Rf4 26 fxe4 Rxg4+  
 27 Kh1 Rh8 28 Ra2 dxe4 29 Rg2 Rf4 30 dxc5  
 d5 31 Nd2 1-0 T.Pahtz-Salmensuu, Panormo  
 2001. **10 Qxf5 Nf7 11 Bf4 Qd7 12 Qxd7+  
 Kxd7 13 Nd2**



The ending is a little bit better for White due to the superior pawn structure. In other words, the lone a-pawn is awkward to defend without pawn support, the doubled c-pawns are a worry and the

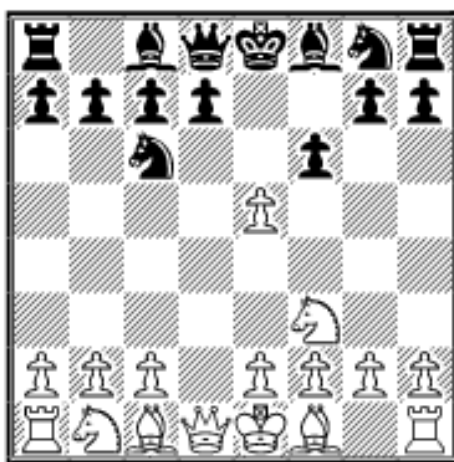
backward e-pawn is still around. **13...e6** This is an attempted improvement on a game played a month before this encounter. However, it is worth noting in the next Finnish weekend tournament that this is the sort of position where White's slight endgame advantage is certainly not what Salmensuu wants when he plays a

wacky opening. 13...c5 14 c4 g5 15 Bg3 e6 16 Rac1 cxd4 17 cxd5 e5 (or 17...exd5 18 Rxc7+ Ke6 19 Nf3 is very good news for White) 18 Ne4 Rb8 19 Rc6 Bd6 (19...Rxb2 20 Rfc1 Rb7 21 Rf6 Nd6) 20 Rfc1 when White still has the slightly superior chances, V.Maki-Salmensuu, Finnish Team Championship 2001. **14 Nb3** White puts a temporary stop Black's usual plan of advancing the doubled c-pawn in a bid to exchange it. **14...Bd6 15 Bg3 a5 16 a4** The advance of black's a-pawn is stopped and now it is revealed to be weak and isolated. **16...Rhb8 17 Rfe1 Rb4 18 Re2 Rab8 19 f3 Rc4 20 Be1** The double attack on the a-file prompts Black to compromise his position by allowing the exchange of his important bishop. **20...c5 21 dxc5 Bxc5+ 22 Nxc5+ Rxc5 23 b3** White has a superior pawn structure and his bishop is more powerful than the opposing bishop. Of course, it still requires a great deal of work to win the position. **23...d4 24 Rd1 Rd5 25 Re4 d3** Black is doing well to generate active play but it is not quite good enough. **26 Rxd3 Rxd3 27 cxd3 Rxb3 28 Rd4+ Kc6 29 Bxa5 Ne5 30 h4 Rxd3 31 Re4 Rd5 32 Bc3 Kd6 33 a5** The ending is winning for White but still takes a long time. The game concluded: **33...Nc6 34 a6 g6 35 Rf4 Ke7 36 Bf6+ Ke8 37 Ra4 Na7 38 Bd4 c5 39 Bf2 Kd7 40 Rf4 Ke7 41 g4 h6 42 Be3 g5 43 Rc4 Kd6 44 h5 e5 45 Rc2 Kc6 46 Kf2 Nb5 47 Rd2 Nd4 48 Ra2 Rd8 49 a7 Ra8 50 Ra6+ Kd5 51 Rxh6 Rxa7 52 Bxg5 Ra2+ 53 Kg3 Ra3 54 Rf6 e4 55 h6 Nxf3 56 Rf5+ Ke6 57 Kf4 Nxf3 58 Rxf3 Rh3 59 Rxc5 Kf7 60 Rc7+ Kg8 61 g5 e3 62 Re7 Rh1 63 Rxe3 Kf7 1-0**

Last month **Salim Djaffer** from **Algeria** wanted to know more about the sequence **d4 e5 2 dxe5 Nc6 3 Nf3 f6** and I invited readers to send in their opinions. I would like to highlight the replies from **Earl N. Roberts** from **New Zealand** and **Lev D. Zilbermints** from the **USA**. They both pointed out that it is widely known as Soller's Gambit and this is because it is named in honour of the German Karl Soller who played and wrote extensively about the opening. If you want to find it on the net then the suggestion is to find a link to one of the chess sites that has a database and then use the ECO code for the opening, which is A40. I hope this will prove useful for Salim.

***TangoMike-Lev Zilbermints Internet rapid 2002***

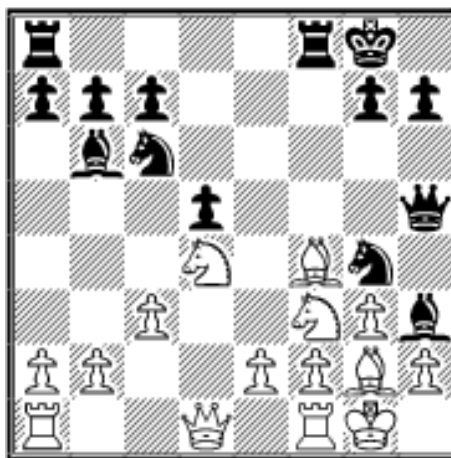
**1 d4 e5 2 dxe5 Nc6 3 Nf3 f6**



**4 exf6 Nxf6 5 g3 5 Bg5** is my preference and I think Black will then struggle to prove he has enough for the pawn. **5...d5 6 Bg2 Bc5 7 0-0 0-0 8 Nbd2 Qe8** Black sensibly begins transferring the

queen to the kingside in preparation for an attack. In a quick game, arguably the most important element is to seize the initiative. This is because the defender has little time to find the right line without allowing checkmate. **9 Nb3**



**Bb6 10 c3 Qh5 11 Nbd4 Bh3 12 Bf4 Ng4**

Zilbermintz has a standard attacking set-up with the queen, knight and bishop all perfectly matched. The bonus is that Black can also add the semi-open f-file to add the king's rook to the

onslaught. **13 b4 h6** It might be even better to play 13...g5 immediately. For instance: 14 Bxg5 (or 14 Ne6 Bxg2 15 Kxg2 gxf4 16 Nxf8 Rxf8 with a strong attack) 14...Bxd4 15 cxd4 Bxg2 16 Kxg2 Rxf3 17 h3 Rxf2+ 18 Rxf2 Nxf2 19 Kxf2 Qxg5. **14 b5?** It is difficult to find in a rapid game but White could have put up a better defence after 14 Bxh3 Qxh3 15 Nxc6 bxc6 16 Qd3. **14...Nxd4 15 cxd4 g5 16 Be5 Bxg2 17 Kxg2 Rxf3 18 h3** Of course, 18 exf3 allows 18...Qxh2 mate. **18...Rxf2+! 0-1**

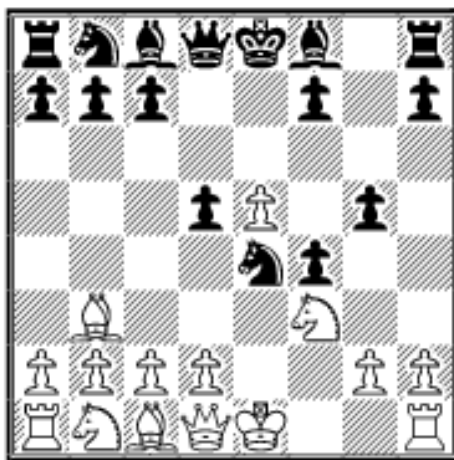
I defy anyone to find the name TangoMike on their database! I hope this might inspire a few people to have the courage to play this attractive gambit, even if it is only in rapid games.

**Stan Evans** from the **USA** writes "The line 1e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 e5 is discredited due to 4...d5, but why after 5 exd6 Bxd6 (5...Qxd6 is interesting too) 6 Qe2+ Qe7 7 Qxe7+ Kxe7 8 Nf3 (Thomas Johansson suggested 8.Ne2) when neither side seems to have an advantage? The better player would probably win this ending."

Well, I have to agree with that the line with 4 e5 is not supposed to be good and it is easy to see why from this old example:

***Jules De Riviere-Serafino Dubois Paris 1855***

**1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 e5 d5 5 Bb3** If the line is played nowadays then 5 Be2 is preferred but it hardly helps the cause. Oelert-Dahlhaus, Dresden 2001 continued 5...Ne4 6 Nf3 Be7 7 0-0 g5 and in an echo of the main game Black holds on to the extra pawn and White's traditional attack is barely visible) **5...Ne4 6 Nf3 g5**



Black supports his extra pawn and unlike a normal King's Gambit White cannot justify his pawn deficit. **7 d3 Nc5 8 h4 g4 9 Nd4 Nxb3 10 axb3 Bc5 11 Ne2 f3 12 gxf3 12 Nf4** is likely

to prolong White's survival. **12...gxf3 13 Nf4 Bg4** The big threat is 14...f2+ revealing a discovered attack against the white queen. **14 Kd2 Nc6 15 c3 d4 16 b4 Be7 0-1**

Therefore, it is worth a look at your interesting suggestion as a way to try to revive the line for White.

**1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 e5 d5 5 exd6 Bxd6 6 Qe2+ Qe7 7 Qxe7+ Kxe7 8 Nf3**



The alternative 8 Ne2 helps White get on with development but Black is a pawn up with few worries.

For instance:

8...Nc6 9 d3 (or 9 d4 Bg4 10 c3 Na5 11 Bd3 f3 12 gxf3 Bxf3 13 0-0 Be4 and

White is edging closer to defeat) 9...Re8 10 0-0 Bc5+ 11 Kh1 Ng4 when the threat of ...Nf2+ wins.

I think that even though the extra pawn is doubled, Black is better. I have to admit that if someone like Kasparov is White then he would still have good chances for a win against us mere mortals but otherwise one should have confidence in such a position when playing with the black pieces. After all it is the pieces you are playing and not the player!

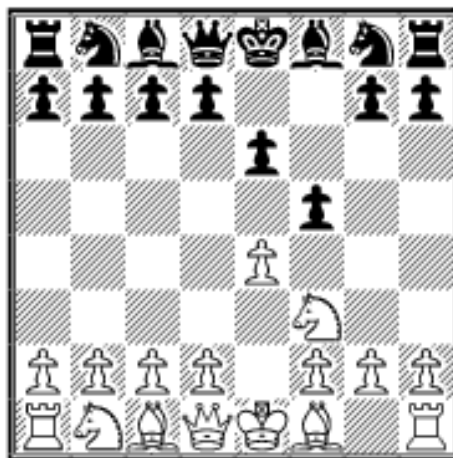
And finally, **Sandy Breon** from the **USA** writes, "I was curious if you had ever seen this defense? 1 e4 e6 2 Nf3 (or 2 d4) 2...f5 3 exf5 exf5 It starts out as a French Defense but ends up being like Dutch Defense versus e4. I saw this defence used impressively in examining the internet games of the player Birchbeer. The opening was classified as C00. I asked Tom Purser (a Blackmar-Diemer and gambit openings expert-G.Lane) about this particular defence, and he mentioned that the player Emil Diemer had used it and mentioned it in the 'Blackmar Gemeneide'. Just wanted your thoughts, and if

you knew what it is called. I have been having troubles finding mentioned it anywhere!”

I have to admit that my first thought was of lines with 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 and now ...f5 which as some similarities and is vaguely respectable. I did manage to find a few players who have this tried this independent line. I have no idea what it is called but if anybody does have an idea then please tell me.

### ***Jila Vorsilka-Koptik Klatovy 1999***

**1 e4 e6 2 Nf3** After 2 d4 then 2...f5 has been played as far back as Schiffers-Chigorin, St. Petersburg 1880. Although, I rather liked the game Koltanowski-Jong, San Francisco blindfold simultaneous San Francisco, 1960 that quickly finished after 3 Nc3 fxe4 4 Nxe4 a6 5 Ng5 Be7 6 N1f3 h6? 7 Nf7! Kxf7 8 Ne5+ Ke8 9 Qh5+ Kf8 10 Qf7 mate. **2...f5**



The advance with f-pawn proves that Black has a sense of humour. **3 exf5** Or 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 e5 Nd5 5 d4 Be7 6 Bd2 0-0 7 Bc4 with a slight advantage although Black eventually won in Stojanovic-

J.Dubos, Saint Quentin 2000. **3...exf5 4 d4** A typical game by a computer, which is not very good occurred in Monik-COMP Pierre, Germany 1999, 4 Bd3 Qe7+ 5 Be2 d5 6 0-0 c5?? 7 Bb5+ 1-0. **4...Nc6 5 d5 Nce7 6 Bc4 d6 7 0-0 b6 8 Nc3 Bb7 9 Bb5+ c6 10 dxc6 Bxc6 11 Bxc6+ Nxc6 12 Re1+ Be7 13 Bf4**



The pin on the open e-file coupled with the pressure on the d6 pawn gives White the advantage) **13...Ne5** (if 13...Kf8 then 14 Nb5 reinforces the pressure on the d6 pawn) **14 Nxe5 dxe5 15 Rxe5 Nf6 16**

**Qxd8+ Rxd8 17 Rae1 Rd7 18 Rxf5 0-0 19 Bg5 h6 20 Bh4 Bb4 21 Bxf6 Rxf6 22 Rxf6 gxf6 23 Rd1 Rc7 24 Nd5 Rxc2 25 Nxb4 Rxb2 26 a3 a5 27 Nd5 Kg7 28 g3 Ra2 29 Rd3 Rc2 30 Nxb6 1-0**

I have no idea what the opening it is called but if anybody does know then please tell me.

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